

Message Text

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12-L

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /090 W

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R 110855Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 509

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJ: CONTINUING GOJ INTEREST IN KIM TAE JUNG CASE

REFS: (A) SEOUL 1487; (B) TOKYO 2849

SUMMARY: GOJ REQUESTS INFORMATION ON ANY CURRENT
USG EFFORTS TO RESOLVE FUTURE OF KIM TAE JUNG.
END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF NORTHEAST ASIA DIV. HEAD SEO CALLED IN
EMBOFF MARCH 11 TO INQUIRE ABOUT VALIDITY OF ARTICLE
WHICH APPEARED IN YOMIURI SHIMBUN MAR 9 DATELINED
WASHINGTON. YOMIURI WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT
WROTE THAT USG AUTHORITIES ARE CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING
TO PERSUADE ROKG BOTH FORMALLY AND INFORMALLY TO
PERMIT KIM TAE JUNG TO LEAVE KOREA. ARTICLE
ALLEGES THAT STATE DEPT IN LATE FEBRUARY
SENT LETTER TO INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF CONGRESS
GIVING QTE FAIRLY OPTIMISTIC UNQTE ASSESSMENT OF
POSSIBILITY FOR KIM TO OBTAIN PASSPORT AND EXIT
PERMIT. LETTER NOTED THAT (A) ROKG REFUSAL SO
FAR TO PERMIT KIM'S DEPARTURE HAD CREATED
NEGATIVE IMPRESSION ON WORLD OPINION; (B) ALTHOUGH
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KIM'S MOVEMENTS ARE RESTRICTED, HE IS FREE TO

CONTACT OTHER PEOPLE AND HAS NOT BEEN ARRESTED
ON ANY CHARGE; AND (C) IT IS POLICY OF USG TO KEEP UP
PRESSURE ON ROKG ON THIS ISSUE. YOMIURI ARTICLE
COMMENTED THAT STATE DEPT LETTER'S
ASSESSMENT OF OUTLOOK CONTRASTS
WITH MARCH 6
INTERVIEW WITH KIM BY LOS ANGELES TIMES CORRESPONDENT
JAMESON, WHO QUOTES KIM AS VERY BLUNT IN CRITICISM
OF PARK GOVT AND ADAMANT ON INSISTENCE
THAT CASE SHOULD BE DECIDED ON HUMANITARIAN
GROUND WHICH, BY IMPLICATION, PARK GOVT IS
NOT PREPARED TO DO.

2. SEO OBSERVED THAT KIM CASE CONTINUES TO INFLUENCE
THINKING IN SOME JAPANESE POLITICAL QUARTERS (SEE
REF B) AND THAT ITS RESOLUTION ALONG SATISFACTORY
LINES (KIM'S RELEASE TO TRAVEL ABROAD WHEREVER
HE WISHES) WOULD GREATLY SIMPLIFY GOJ TASK IN
HANDLING DOMESTIC JAPANESE ASPECTS OF RELATIONS
WITH ROKG (CONTINENTAL SHELF TREATY BEING CURRENT
EXAMPLE). SEO THEREFORE ASKED IF YOMIURI REPORT
FROM WASHINGTON CONCERNING STATE DEPT
LETTER WAS ACCURATE AND, MORE GENERALLY, HE
REQUESTED USG ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECTS FOR KIM'S
RELEASE.

3. EMBOFF AGREED TO FORWARD SEO'S INQUIRY TO
WASHINGTON, BUT COMMENTED THAT WHILE HE HAD NO
KNOWLEDGE OF ANY STATE DEPT LETTER TO
CONGRESSMAN, RECENT REPORTS FROM EMBASSY SEOUL
(REF A) SUGGESTED NO PROSPECT IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE
FOR KIM TO BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE ROK.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT ON
YOMIURI REPORT AND ASSESSMENT OF LIKELIHOOD KIM
BEING RELEASED (IF THERE IS ANYTHING TO ADD TO REF A).
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